

COUNTY: BEDFORDSHIRE **SITE NAME:** BIDDENHAM PIT

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authorities: Bedford Borough Council
Bedfordshire County Council

National Grid Reference: TL 023504

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 153 **1:10,000:** TL 05 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 0.41 ha 1.01 ac

Other information: This is a Geological Conservation Review (GCR) Site.

Description and Reasons for Notification

This old gravel pit provides exposures in terrace gravel laid down by the Bedfordshire Ouse. The deposits here include clayey and silty layers, which have yielded interglacial mollusca and mammalian remains. A prolific Palaeolithic industry has also been identified in the lowest part of the gravels. Research into the possibility that microfossil material may be present, as well as attempts to identify the interglacial represented at Biddenham is currently being undertaken (see old sheet). The combination of Palaeolithic and palaeontological material at this site ensures that the Biddenham pit is of considerable scientific significance.